Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

Request for Board Action

Meeting Date: 8/19/2025

County Manager's Report

Department: County Manager's Office

Presenter(s): DK Wesley, Assistant County Manager

Contact(s): DK Wesley, Assistant County Manager

Subject: Introduction of Lead for NC Fellow – Daysha Chaney

Brief Summary:

Lead For North Carolina (LFNC) is a state affiliate of Lead for America, a nonpartisan fellowship program across the United States. Lead for America was launched in 2018, and LFNC is its first state affiliate program. The School of Government has partnered with key organizations, including the NC County Managers Association (NCCCMA), NC League of Municipalities (NCLM), and NC Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) to implement LFNC.

Buncombe County was selected as one of Lead for North Carolina's host jurisdictions for the 2025-2026 program year. The pool was competitive. Over 60 government entities across the state put forward competitive applications, but the selection team believed Buncombe County would provide an exceptional experience for an AmeriCorps Fellow. County staff were afforded the opportunity to interview several candidates. As a result of this process, Daysha Chaney was selected and agreed to complete her year of service in Buncombe County.

Daysha Chaney is the Lead for North Carolina Fellow for Buncombe County. She graduated from the University of North Carolina Asheville with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and a minor in Legal Studies. While at UNC Asheville, Daysha was a Division I athlete on the Women's Soccer team, earning both academic and athletic recognition, including a distinction in Political Science and Academic All-District honors. Daysha also led discussions on team culture, leadership, and community engagement as an appointed Team Leadership Committee member. Her commitment to community and public service led her to serve as Senior Intern with the nonprofit Buncombe Alternatives, Inc., and as a voting member of Buncombe County's Juvenile Crime Prevention Council.

Daysha started her service with Buncombe County on August 4th. Daysha is assigned to the County Manager's Office. Daysha will have at least three active workplans during this year. To start, Daysha will focus on the following projects:

- Tropical Storm Helene Recovery – Research, Recovery Support and Long-Term Strategic Planning (Recovery Office)
- Swannanoa Small Area Plan Development – Research, Coordination and Community Engagement (Planning/Communications and Public Engagement Departments)
- Public Safety Communication – Research, Project Support and Training Development (Public Safety Communications Department)

We believe that the afore-mentioned projects, though not exhaustive of the potential opportunities, will provide an excellent overall experience of local government and the challenges and opportunities that can be gained by various projects and experiences.

Recommended Motion & Requested Action:

No action recommended

County Manager's comments and Recommendation:

Not applicable